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aphis salutes soldiers' tree at smithsonian

By Vivian Keller

On Veterans Day, America paid tribute to the countless Americans who have served with honor in the U.S. Armed Forces, abroad and at home. And Paul Ijams, the officer in charge of APHIS' National Plant Germplasm Inspection Station (NPGIS) in Beltsville, MD, made a special contribution to the cause this year—by helping soil from U.S. military cemeteries and battlefields around the world become part of a living memorial to Congressional Medal of Honor (CMOH) recipients.

NPGIS was one of the key participants in a unique project recently completed by the Smithsonian Institution. The project began 3 years ago as a gleam in the eye of Brett McNish, a supervisory horticulturist for the Smithsonian's gardens and avid history buff, and his friend Todd Price, the director of Wagner Farm in Illinois. Their idea: to plant a memorial oak tree just outside the National Museum of American History (NMAH) in Washington, D.C., and then to enhance its dedication ceremony by collecting soils from sites of American military significance at home and abroad. The larger concept, said McNish, was to connect the Smithsonian's grounds

with its exhibitions—in this case, NMAH's *The Price of Freedom: Americans at War*, which examines how wars have shaped American history and transformed society.

Earlier this year, McNish contacted Ijams, who directed him to Plant Protection and

Continued on next page



Paul Ijams looks over soil samples and documentation at the National Plant Germplasm Inspection Station in Beltsville, MD.

soldiers' tree

Continued from page 1

Quarantine's permit office to approve the soil imports he needed for the project. Subsequently, groundskeepers with the American Battle Monuments Commission, which maintains U.S. military cemeteries abroad, U.S. Department of State staffers, and others worldwide began collecting soil samples.

Ultimately, soil from more than a dozen cemeteries and battlefields representing the span of U.S. military involvement abroad—from

Mexico, Iwo Jima, France (Normandy), and General George S. Patton's

grave in Luxembourg to Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq—made its way to Beltsville.

Each small shipment of soil arrived in a small opaque white container, which Ijams promptly baked at 250 degrees Fahrenheit for about 2 hours in NPGIS' oven. The sterilized soil then

went to McNish, for a November 10 ceremony attended by active duty servicemen, U.S. Government VIPs, Smithsonian staff, the president of the CMOH Foundation, and others. Sixteen veterans poured the Beltsville soils, as well as soil from Revolutionary and Civil War battle sites, into a wheelbarrow, where they were mixed together by CMOH recipient Brian Thacker and spread at the base of the tree by all the audience's veterans—a symbol of the military's unity of purpose and commitment.

In a final blessing for the tree, Thacker said he hoped that in 100 years "it will not have seen all the trials and tribulations we've seen...that it is a more peaceful century."

McNish called the experience "exhilarating." And Ijams, who attended the ceremony with his daughter, was delighted to have been involved. "This was certainly something different for us," he said. "It's pretty exciting to be a part of it." ●



photos from the field

Click Camera to See Photos

Send Your Photos for the Next Issue

Give others the chance to step outside their day and into yours. We're still accepting photos.

Send photos by e-mail with a brief caption to: inside.aphis@aphis.usda.gov ●

aphis awards supervisor of the year

By John Scott



On October 7, APHIS hosted its first annual Supervisor of the Year award ceremony in Riverdale, MD. The event honored each of the APHIS program nominees and announced Plant Protection and Quarantine's (PPQ) Arthur Berlowitz as this year's recipient of the agency-level award.

Berlowitz is the officer in charge at PPQ's South San Francisco Plant Inspection Station. There, he manages a highly diverse staff of 18 people—notably all of whom nominated him for this year's award. To hear more about Berlowitz's accomplishments, click [HERE](#) to view Associate Administrator Kevin Shea's remarks from the award ceremony.

In addition to Berlowitz, other program nominees for the 2010 award were: Joseph Nelson (Animal Care), Thomas Sim (Biotechnology Regulatory Services), John Shaw (International Services), Felicia Stepney (Legislative and Public Affairs), Jacqueline Freeman (Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services), Stephen O'Neill (Policy and Program Development), Byron Rippke (Veterinary Services), and Tyler Campbell (Wildlife Services).

Each of the agency nominees had earlier received supervisor awards within their respective programs, where they were recognized

for their exemplary leadership, their commitment to fostering employee excellence, and their contributions to the Secretary's cultural transformation initiative.

As part of the agency award ceremony, Berlowitz and other nominees participated in a brief panel discussion and responded to questions regarding their insights as agency supervisors. ●



Shown (left to right) are: Stephen O'Neill, Jacqueline Freeman, Felicia Stepney, and John Shaw.

Go Outside
[inside]

Click here to log-in to the portal and read Berlowitz's guest blog on the Administrator's portal page.



why I choose to give

By Michael Doerr

I jumped at the chance to volunteer to coordinate APHIS' Combined Federal Campaign (CFC) activities in the Washington area this year. I definitely had enough work to do already, but CFC is important to me.

Volunteering was a way for me to focus on something positive. Every day, we hear stories about families who struggle as our economy recovers. We witness the impacts of environmental disasters and war. It's rarer to hear stories about people who work to better themselves, their families, and their communities. For me, that's what CFC is about. CFC is, of course, about charity. But charity is abstract. CFC means giving real dollars to real organizations that do real things for our communities.

I've talked to several CFC charities this year—every one of them has told me how even a single CFC dollar allows them to deliver critical programs and services. A single dollar feeds real families in our neighborhoods. A dollar helps a homeless child off the streets. For the organizations in this year's Catalogue of Caring, CFC has real, tangible meaning. That's why I chose to volunteer my time for CFC and that's why I'll donate my money.

Whether you're in the D.C. area or within one of the many other CFC campaign areas throughout the country, I ask each of you to go online or fill out a pledge form to give to the CFC. You don't have to give a lot to make a positive difference in your community. ●

veterinary services preparing for fmd through partnerships

By Jill Brown and Sarah Tomlinson



Todd Johnson (left), VS' New York area emergency coordinator, and David Smith, acting State veterinarian and director of New York State's Division of Animal Industry, examine maps of an FMD outbreak scenario.

what is foot-and-mouth disease?

read more about the national animal health laboratory network

As part of APHIS' ongoing effort to prepare for damaging animal disease outbreaks, Veterinary Services (VS) recently sponsored an extensive series of foot-and-mouth disease (FMD) tabletop exercises. Hosted by 16 different National Animal Health Laboratory Network (NAHLN) laboratories throughout the United States, the series began in May and ran through September.

The objectives of the exercises were to closely examine early-, mid-, and late-response activities related to a theoretical FMD disease outbreak. Participants included approximately 400 animal health professionals from Federal, State, and international governments, universities, and industry. Each exercise began with a foreign animal disease investigation, progressed through the confirmation and spread of FMD, and concluded with outbreak recovery and efforts to demonstrate disease freedom.

[lessons learned]

A previous tabletop exercise series in 2008 for avian influenza helped improve NAHLN laboratories' overall ability to respond to foreign animal diseases. With the recent FMD

exercises, VS anticipates again building upon its efforts with lessons learned.

Each laboratory participating in the FMD series will receive an individualized after-action report; a final summary report with recommendations based on the findings from each exercise in the series will also be provided to all participants.

VS has already identified several preliminary themes for improvement:

- Increase understanding on various facets of the response process, including foreign animal disease reporting procedures and policies, roles, and responsibilities.
- Provide laboratory and field personnel with information on decision points and timelines, and for the validation and use of diagnostic technologies.
- Provide laboratory and field personnel with additional information on resources available during an outbreak.

The NAHLN program staff would like to thank all who collaborated in the development and delivery as well as all who participated in the

exercises. Partnerships are essential as we work together to safeguard animal health.

view list of table-top exercise sites and dates

More information on the FMD Tabletop Exercises will be posted in early 2011 to the NAHLN Web site at www.aphis.usda.gov/animal_health/nahln/. For up-to-date information, consider subscribing to the NAHLN's quarterly newsletter, *The NAHLN Quarterly*. To subscribe, e-mail Jill Brown at jill.m.brown@aphis.usda.gov. ●



Lanny Pace, NAHLN laboratory director of Mississippi State University's Veterinary Research & Diagnostic Laboratory, listens to discussions at the FMD exercise at Murray State University, Hopkinsville, KY.

secretary's annual honor awards

By John Scott

**“Working with you—
observing your dedication
and commitment—is a
constant inspiration.”**

—Tom Vilsack

In his message for the 62nd Secretary's Annual Honor Awards, Secretary Tom Vilsack praised USDA employees, noting, “By any measure, USDA employees make enormous contributions to the good of our Nation.”

At the ceremony in August, APHIS employees showed themselves worthy of the Secretary's words and praise, earning a total of three Honor Awards for their work.

[H1N1 coordination group]

The H1N1 Coordination Group, led by APHIS' Lisa Ferguson and Jonathan Zack, earned recognition for its efforts in developing a flexible, interagency-sanctioned and risk-measured approach for finding H1N1 virus in swine.

APHIS group members included: Lyndsay Cole, Ed Curlett, Michael David, Steven Finch, Sharon Fisher, Patricia Foley, Donna Gatewood, Thomas Michael Gomez, Joseph Hermann, Ellen Kasari, John Korslund, Barbara Martin, David Pyburn, Jill Rolland, Beverly Schmitt, Aaron Scott, Danielle Spaulding, Darrel Styles, Sabrina Swenson, Mark Teachman, and Sarah Tomlinson.

Other group members included employees with USDA's Agricultural Research Service, the Food Safety and Inspection Service, and the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

[pennsylvania plum pox eradication project team]

Led by APHIS' Donald Albright, this team coordinated response efforts leading to the eradication of plum pox virus in Pennsylvania in 2009. As a highly collaborative effort, team members included APHIS employees, growers, industry, and State and university officials. Plum pox is a devastating viral disease of stone fruit that appeared in the United States for the first time in Pennsylvania in 1999.

APHIS team members were: Christopher Ball, Thomas Chanelli, Gary Clement, Laurene Levy, Bill Swartz, and Mafalda Weldon.

[emergency support function 11 team]

Under the National Response Framework there are 15 Emergency Support Functions, or ESFs, that guide how our Government works with State, Tribal, and local governments, as well as the private sector, during emergencies.

ESF 11 focuses on the protection of agriculture and natural resources, and APHIS' Emergency Management Safety and Security Division (EMSSD) is the designated national ESF 11 coordinator.

The ESF 11 team, led by Ronald Walton, earned its Honor Award for its efforts to prepare for and respond to numerous crises involving ESF 11—from the earthquake in Haiti to flooding in North Dakota and ice storms in New England.

APHIS' group members included: Chris Berger, Matthew Bragg, Charles Brown, George Chambliss, Holly Chmil, Rosalynn Days-Austin, Joseph De Monte, Kevin Denison, Timothy R. Fordahl, John Grendon, Betty Goldentyer, Kerri Goust, Philip Gruzalski, Barbara Ha, Vic Harabin, Burke Healey, John Kinsella, Tyler McAlpin, Theodore Melott, Gretchen Moran, Dale Nolte, Bethany O'Brien, Jack Shere, Todd Smith, Luri Stewart, Michael Stubbs, Christine Sullivan, Ronnie Warren, Shannon Wheat, Andrew Wilds, and Jimmy Wortham.

Additional team members included employees with USDA's Food and Nutrition Service and the Food Safety and Inspection Service. ●

hungry pests web site targets (un)wanted pests

By John Scott

In communications, it's often best to keep it simple. Straightforward. Focused.

The agency's Web site, "Hungry Pests: They're Here and They're Hungry!" heeds this advice. Without clutter, the site provides information about some of our Nation's most (un)wanted invasive pests.

In addition to its easily navigable links about each pest, the site includes images to help identify pests, clear steps for people to take in support of pest control efforts, and information on how to report suspected sightings.

The site also features an interactive U.S.

Pest Tracker map so that you can see at a glance what pests threaten or are under active quarantine in any given State and its counties.

As both an APHIS employee and a resident in your home State, you should visit the site to see what pests may be lurking in your area.

[expanding web site reach]

Originally designed to educate the general public in California about invasive agricultural

pests, APHIS retooled and relaunched the site in August to target a national audience and to include forest pests such as the Asian longhorned beetle and emerald ash borer.

Like its predecessor, the retooled site will be supported by a slate of dynamic television/radio ads and public service announcements that steer the public to the Web. Clips from the previous campaign are posted on the current site.

Contracts for a new ad campaign to promote the Web site should be finalized soon, with the ads likely to begin running in the spring.

Together, Legislative and Public Affairs and the Plant Protection and Quarantine program plan to concentrate campaign outreach efforts in 12 States selected because of their higher risk for invasive pest introductions or spread.

The 12 States are: California, Florida, Georgia, Illinois, Michigan, Minnesota, New York,

North Carolina, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Texas, and Washington. ●



[click here to visit the hungry pest video links page](#)



Go Outside
[inside]

Click image above to visit the Hungry Pest Web site.



did you know?



By Steven Patrick

Did you know to safeguard the thousands of dogs and other warm-blooded animals flying to, from, and between U.S. airports annually, APHIS carried out 795 airport inspections in fiscal year 2010?

Animal Care (AC) inspector Chad Moore's beat includes Chicago O'Hare International, a high-traffic hub where some 55 airlines and ground transport operators are registered as animal shippers under the Animal Welfare Act.

Animal jet-setters fly the big airlines and also via transporters like UPS and FedEx, keeping AC inspectors like Moore very busy. He carries out some 100 airport inspections every year.

It's mostly dogs that take to the skies, shipped as pets or by dealers; however, other animals take wing as well. Many cats and the occasional monkey, tiger, and remarkably even marine mammal sometimes travel by air.

In 2008, Chicago's Shedd Aquarium began upgrading its facility. During the project, Moore and other AC inspectors monitored the move of three beluga whales and two Pacific

white-sided dolphins. Because of the extent of the work, and the specialty of their housing, the marine mammals were flown 1,000 miles to Connecticut's Mystic Aquarium.

The move, which was a year in the works, involved a dozen zoo handlers hoisting animals via hammocks into specifically-designed

containers. Next, with partially-submerged handlers and police in tow, the belugas and dolphins were whisked to O'Hare and smoothly loaded aboard a FedEx cargo plane.

"They were in hammocks and they were just as comfortable as they could be," said Moore. "It was great." ●

ATAC Celebrates 10-Year Anniversary



It's not too late to send your belated card or e-mail!

The APHIS Technical Assistance Center (ATAC) celebrates its 10th anniversary this year.

Launched in July 2000, ATAC started originally with a staff of nine. Today, ATAC's staff of 16 processes approximately 5,800 incidents monthly that are then worked by the various APHIS IT personnel using the APHIS Remedy Incident Management system. In addition, ATAC technicians resolve, on average, 3,700 incidents each month for APHIS and non-APHIS customers.

See if you recognize any of ATAC's original cast in this photo. Most are still part of APHIS' IT community. Click the photo to see the names of those shown. ●

international services

visitor's program making meetings work for you

By Jennifer Painter



The incoming requests may differ, but often they begin with the same rising sense of panic.

"I've been asked to host a group of trade visitors from Canada, and I don't know what to do!"

"Italy's chief veterinary officer is bringing a delegation to learn about our role in biotechnology. And they want to tour USDA's Beltsville labs. How can I do all that?"

Thankfully, there's no need for panic. The APHIS Visitor's Program is here to help.

The APHIS Visitor's Program is available to facilitate such meeting requests and to maintain a comprehensive log of APHIS activities related to agency meetings with international visitors, representatives, embassy officials, and delegations.

The program operates from its office at APHIS' headquarters in Riverdale, MD. At any given time, the small but experienced staff may be coordinating 20 or more meetings between APHIS personnel and foreign visitors.

[more than coffee and name tags]

Sometimes people first encounter the visitor center staff face-to-face as they set up a meeting's greeting table with coffee, refreshments, and name tags. However, rest assured that their role in meeting planning started way before that morning's coffee prep.

In the month leading up to the meeting, the staff has already prepared a full log of information about the visit, including the names, biographies, contact information, and passport details on each of the visitors. They have also called program representatives to discuss how the visit can advance the agency's goals.

Additionally, they have consulted with the APHIS Trade Support Staff and contacted the International Services' representative in the visitors' home country to obtain advice based on specific knowledge about the region. And, they have researched which USDA or other Federal agencies may have a stake in the outcome of the visit.

For meetings in Riverdale, the visitor's center staff also coordinates room preparations,

including preferred seating arrangements, audio/visual equipment, and telephone lines for conference calls.

[protocols and presents]

To serve employees in Riverdale and agency field locations, the Visitor's Program is always available to consult with about important protocols for meetings with foreign visitors. Trust them—these details matter. For example, they can describe the preferred room layout for negotiations with high-level Chinese delegations. They can explain how best to greet visiting groups from Muslim countries.

Additionally, the visitor's center staff is a valuable resource for explaining permitted expenses for meals/events, and they can suggest appropriate gifts as gestures of welcome for visitors. ●

[contact information]

APHIS Visitor's Center Program
http://inside.aphis.usda.gov/is/tcb/visitors_center/
phone: 301-734-7607
e-mail: itrcbrequests@aphis.usda.gov

question of the day

[your results]

Our thanks to everyone who participated and responded to the last newsletter's question of the day: "How safe do you feel in your workplace?"

Here's how your coworkers responded:

“

How safe do you feel in your workplace?

”



[next question please]

As we near the holiday season, many of us will be challenged with even busier home and work schedules. Given this, we thought it a good time to ask the following question:

How would you rate yourself at keeping a healthy work/life balance?

- I do a good job of keeping a healthy work/life balance.
- I do a fair job of keeping a healthy work/life balance.
- I have a difficult time keeping a healthy work/life balance.
- I have an unhealthy work/life balance.

Click on the following link to participate in the poll:
<http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/aphisquestionoftheday>

As always, participation is voluntary and confidential. ●



Go Outside
[inside]

aphis senior leaders conference

By Scott Moore

APHIS has numerous priorities to juggle. While its primary mission is to protect American agriculture, the agency is also duty-bound to serve its customers. And, all the while, it must also effectively engage with agency employees, balance its resources and costs, and coordinate with departmental officials and political appointees.

With the goal of better juggling these tasks and improving the implementation of the agency's mission, APHIS recently held a 2-day Senior Leaders Conference in Gaithersburg, MD. About 75 leaders from throughout the agency gathered in late October to discuss how best to address the agency's mission in light of the Obama Administration's priorities, the Secretary's Cultural Transformation initiative, and current fiscal and political challenges.

During the gathering, Administrator Cindy Smith referred to the agency as a "well-oiled machine." And throughout the conference, Smith and APHIS leaders also talked about the value of innovation.

Picking up on this theme, Patricia Douglass, State plant health director for Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, said the conference focused on "being creative in how

we interpret and implement the spirit of our regulations and about building relationships of all types in positive, constructive ways."

[change and innovation]

Guest keynote speaker Ken Miller spoke about the importance of change and innovation. Author of *We Don't Make Widgets: Overcoming the Myths That Keep Government from Radically Improving*, Miller advised APHIS leaders to change their thinking. To cut costs and become more customer-focused, Miller said the agency must understand that change and innovation are an essential part of today's government. As Miller noted, government agencies often need to "straighten the pipes" to make things run more efficiently.

Continued on next page





manager profile with helene wright

*State Plant Health Director, California
Plant Protection and Quarantine*

[what is your background?]

I started with USDA as a grain inspector in 1976—joined APHIS in 1978. I circled the country a couple of times in various positions and eventually came back to Sacramento—the city where I grew up!

[how long have you been with APHIS?]

32 years—this is amazing to me. I thought I would try working at USDA for a year at most, but just stayed on. The longer I stayed, the better it got!

[most memorable APHIS experience?]

Working out of a cherry picker to find/verify gypsy moth egg masses in Illinois.

[priorities for the coming months?]

Getting a little more balance in my life. It has been a hectic summer, and I have been in the office way too much...

[accomplishment most proud of?]

Surviving, and usually thriving, in the midst of all that is going on

in California. It's a good thing I'm a "chaos junkie"...

[hobbies?]

When the going gets tough, the tough go shopping!

[favorite meal?]

Great pasta—portabella raviolis are the best!

[guilty pleasure?]

Chocolate—I try for moderation, but sometimes you just have to indulge yourself a bit.

[favorite movie?]

It's been too long since I actually sat down to watch a movie... And, I'm not fond of theaters. All I seem to find are overpriced tickets, sticky floors, and usually bad sound.

[last book read?]

Truck, A Love Story by Michael Perry. It's good light reading, but is filled with life lessons. ●

senior leaders conference

Continued from page 9

Gary Greene, director of the Moscamed (Medfly) Program for International Services in Guatemala City, echoed the conference's message regarding innovation. Greene said the brainstorming sessions showed that the Administrator "...is open to new ideas and looking for increased innovation from APHIS employees."

Rick Hill, director of the Center for Veterinary Biologics in Ames, IA, praised the meeting for encouraging leaders to work collaboratively with colleagues in different mission areas or geographic locations. Hill pointed out that just as APHIS reaches across boundaries—to other countries and to Federal and State agencies—so must employees be open to collaborations within the agency.

"Building relationships across APHIS is critical to our respective and collective missions," Hill said. "These meetings allowed leaders to discuss and learn that our units and staffs are facing similar challenges and opportunities."

The result, Hill said, will be better decisions and strategic actions—and a renewed sense of purpose. ●



veterinary services horse event invades kentucky

By Jim Barrett

Did you know that the largest single airlift of horses into the United States just took place in Kentucky?

More than 800 equines traveled from abroad for the World Equestrian Games in September and October. Added to that number were a significant number of horses that arrived from other U.S. States and Canada. Altogether, there were more than a thousand horses

whose health APHIS and its cooperators kept a watchful eye on.

The World Equestrian Games event is the equine equivalent of the Olympics. And like the Olympics, it occurs just every 4 years. This year was the first time that it was held in the United States. As the host State, Kentucky tackled the task of preparing for the massive influx of horses, athletes, and fans from 58 countries worldwide.

APHIS Veterinary Services' National Center for Import and Export (NCIE) prepared for the

Games for more than 5 years leading up to the event, collaborating with numerous State and industry partners throughout the process.

With so many horses in one place at one time, it was vital for APHIS to come up with effective plans to prevent the spread of equine disease and keep American horses safe and healthy while the Games were underway.

To safely accommodate the influx of horses, NCIE officials set up a temporary facility at the Cincinnati/Northern Kentucky International Airport (CVG) that could handle the quarantine of 450 or so horses arriving from Europe and the Middle East. There, the horses were monitored for 42 hours before being released to compete in Kentucky. The CVG facility was managed primarily by the Games veterinary staff with assistance from APHIS and the Kentucky Department of Agriculture.

Horses arriving from other countries were held for a short time at regular USDA ports of entry like Miami, Los Angeles, and New York. Event organizers and

veterinarians also conducted tick suppression activities and performed regular veterinary check-ups on horses throughout the event.

"This was a once-in-a-lifetime event, and it was an absolutely phenomenal experience. The logistics involved to move roughly 500 horses internationally was a feat in itself," said Rob Southall, APHIS Kentucky area veterinarian in charge.

For more information about the World Equestrian Games, visit the event Web site at: <http://www.alltechfeigames.com/> ●



Far right photo in series: Veterinary Services' (VS) Import/Export Specialist Ellen Buck (in white) works with VS' Veterinary Medical Officer Judy Morley (in red) to record health information for horses arriving prior to the 2010 World Equine Games in Kentucky.



aphis administrator's awards

By John Scott

For this year's APHIS Administrator's Award, Cindy Smith awarded four groups and two individual agency employees with honors for their work.

The Administrator's Award is presented each year in recognition of collaboration, creativity, and outstanding contributions to the APHIS mission. This year's award recipients are:

[aphis labor relations, plant protection and quarantine, and national association of agricultural employees]

Together, these group members achieved the "Most Improved" labor-management relationship government-wide. With a new team of labor, management, and union representatives, they collaborated to develop a productive relationship that serves the needs of both the agency and employees.

Group members include: Rebecca Bech, Elizabeth Blackwood, Sarah Rehberg, Peter Brownell III, Ronald Dale, Paul Eggert, Jody Feliciano, Craig Kellogg, Frank King, Michael Lidsky, Kristen Luurs, Robi Maple, Carlos Martinez, Anthony Nakamura, Michael Randall, Norma Rosario, Sherry Sanderson, and James Triebwasser.

[veterinary services, management support]

Group members earned their award for creating comprehensive workforce planning, recruitment and scholar programs. Their efforts resulted in improving the program's efficiencies and effectiveness in planning, attracting, and providing scholarly opportunities for current and future Veterinary Services employees.

Group members include: Inez Hockaday, Thomas Scott, Eileen Cramer, LaWanda Thomas, and Pamela McDonagh.

[plant protection and quarantine, western cereal leaf beetle team]

This team was recognized for its sustained, diversified teamwork that resulted in successfully using biological control for the cereal leaf beetle. Their efforts reduced pesticide use and increased integrated crop protection for grain farmers throughout the West.

Group members include: Diana Roberts, Gary Adams, Gary Brown, Clinton Campbell, Glenn Harruff, Mark Hitchcox, Joe Merenz, Steve Miller, Mitch Nelson, Colin Park, David Prokrym, Bruce Shambaugh, Juan Alvarez, Ben Simko, Barry Bai, George Hoffman,

Kathleen Johnson, Sujaya Roa, Helmuth Rogg, Richard Worth, Dan Bean, Colleen Jan-dreau, David Bragg, Mike Klaus, Terry Miller, Keith Pike, Hector Carcamo, Patty Denke, Lloyd Dosdall, Edward Evans, Jay Karren, David Reed, William Roltsch, Darrin Walenta, and Bryon Quebbeman.

[animal care, emergency program, saving pets saves lives]

Animal Care's Emergency Program earned its group award for its actions in developing an effective national policy to safeguard people and their pets during disasters. The program's efforts advance recognition at the national, State, and local level that supporting animal safety and well-being during disasters is a significant factor in ensuring the safety and well-being of people.

Group members included: Allan Hogue, Kevin Dennison, Kay Carter-Corker, Jeanie Lin, Nicole Parran-Harrell, Anneliese McCann, Vaughan Langman, Debra Sime, Tracy Thompson, Beverly Hicks, Tami Howard, Nancy Ellifrit, Gregory Gaj.

Continued on next page

aphis fills leadership positions

By John Scott



Joanne Munno



Gregory Parham

Over the summer, APHIS completed its selection for two key agency positions. The move established Joanne Munno as deputy administrator for Marketing and Regulatory Programs Business Services (MRPBS) and Gregory Parham as APHIS associate administrator. Congratulations to both!

[joanne munno]

As deputy administrator for MRPBS, Munno manages the offices that provide human resource management, financial management, and administrative services to support APHIS—as well as USDA's Agricultural Marketing Service and the Grain Inspection, Packers and Stockyards Administration. MRPBS also provides other support services to APHIS, including information technology management, emergency management, and investigative services.

Prior to her selection, Munno served as MRPBS' acting deputy administrator and as the program's associate deputy administrator from 2001 to 2010. Before joining APHIS, she was the Chief of the Procurement Operations Division for the USDA, Office of the Assistant Secretary for Administration.

Munno holds a bachelor of science degree from the University of Maryland, and she has

earned six USDA Secretary Honor Awards. Outside of APHIS, she is active in animal rescue work and volunteers for the City of Alexandria in a program serving mentally disabled citizens.

[gregory parham]

As APHIS associate administrator, Parham works closely with program heads to provide leadership and direction in science, while focusing special attention on international and trade activities.

Prior to his appointment, Parham had served as acting associate administrator for APHIS since last November and as deputy administrator for MRPBS for the previous 2 years.

He began his Federal career in 1980 with the Centers for Disease Control and joined USDA in 1982, working with several USDA agencies before coming to APHIS in March 2006 as the agency's chief information officer.

Parham holds a master's degree from the Johns Hopkins University in administrative science and doctoral and bachelor's degrees from the Ohio State University in veterinary medicine and microbiology. ●

administrator's awards

Continued from page 12

[brett dunlap, wildlife services]

Dunlap received an award for his exemplary beaver damage management program accomplishments. He has demonstrated strong leadership in developing cost-effective, collaborative projects to protect multiple resources throughout Tennessee and Kentucky.

[james wettestad, veterinary services, center for veterinary biologics]

Wettestad was honored for his actions in assisting an injured coworker. With compassion and a level-headed approach, Wettestad aided an employee who was severely burned at work. His actions—both before and after the arrival of paramedics—demonstrated his exemplary skill as a trained agency emergency responder. ●

volunteer spotlight tracy bowman



In this issue, we recognize the volunteer efforts of APHIS' Tracy Bowman, the last of our featured agency recipients of the President's Volunteer Service Award.

Employees earn the award for their commitment to strengthening our Nation and making a difference through volunteer service.

[employee name and program]

Tracy Bowman, Policy and Program Development, on detail to Biotechnology Regulatory Services as acting director, policy coordination programs

[volunteer organization]

Fidos For Freedom

[organization mission]

To increase the quality of life for people living in the Baltimore-Washington metropolitan community through the provision and use of specially trained hearing dogs, service dogs, and therapy dogs.

[volunteer activities]

Bowman serves on the Fidos Board of Directors and has since 2002. She has raised puppies for the organization's assistance dog program and currently serves as an assistance dog trainer to teach dogs in training more advanced skills. In this capacity, she

works with Fidos' clients once they have been matched with their future dog partner and helps the team learn to work together at home, at work, and in the places they typically go. Bowman also has two dogs of her own—they are both Fidos-certified therapy dogs. She and her dogs visit patients in health care settings to bring joy and affection to people who need it the most.

[time given]

Most every week, you can find Bowman at Fidos on Wednesday evenings and Saturday mornings helping clients learn to work with dogs in training or training with her own dogs. The dogs in training live at "Chez Bowman," and she often spends 5-10 minutes working with them on obedience skills like a down stay or some more specialized skill, such as taking clothes out of the dryer and dropping them in a basket. Last year, she spent more than 850 hours doing one of the many things that help make a small nonprofit like Fidos succeed and thrive.

[organization web sites]

www.fidosforfreedom.org

[e-mail]

Tracy.L.Bowman@aphis.usda.gov ●

agency calendar

december

CFC Fundraiser Event Schedule for Riverdale, MD; Click [HERE](#).

Federal Benefits Open Season; November 8 through December 13; annual opportunity to elect or change your enrollment in the Federal Employees Health Benefits (FEHB) program, elect or change your enrollment in the Federal Dental and Vision Insurance Program (FEDVIP), or enroll in the Federal Flexible Spending Accounts (FSA) for health care and/or dependent care in 2011. Visit http://www.aphis.usda.gov/mrpbs/hr/benefits/open_season.shtml for the latest information.

2010 Perspectives on Employment of Persons with Disabilities Conference (co-sponsored by USDA); December 8–10; Hyatt Regency, Bethesda, MD.

71st Midwest Fish & Wildlife Conference; December 12–15; Minneapolis, MN.